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## Clipping Milk Cows

S. M. Gregory

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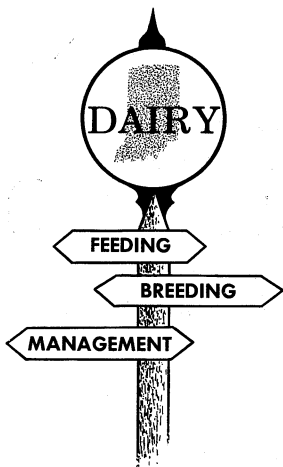
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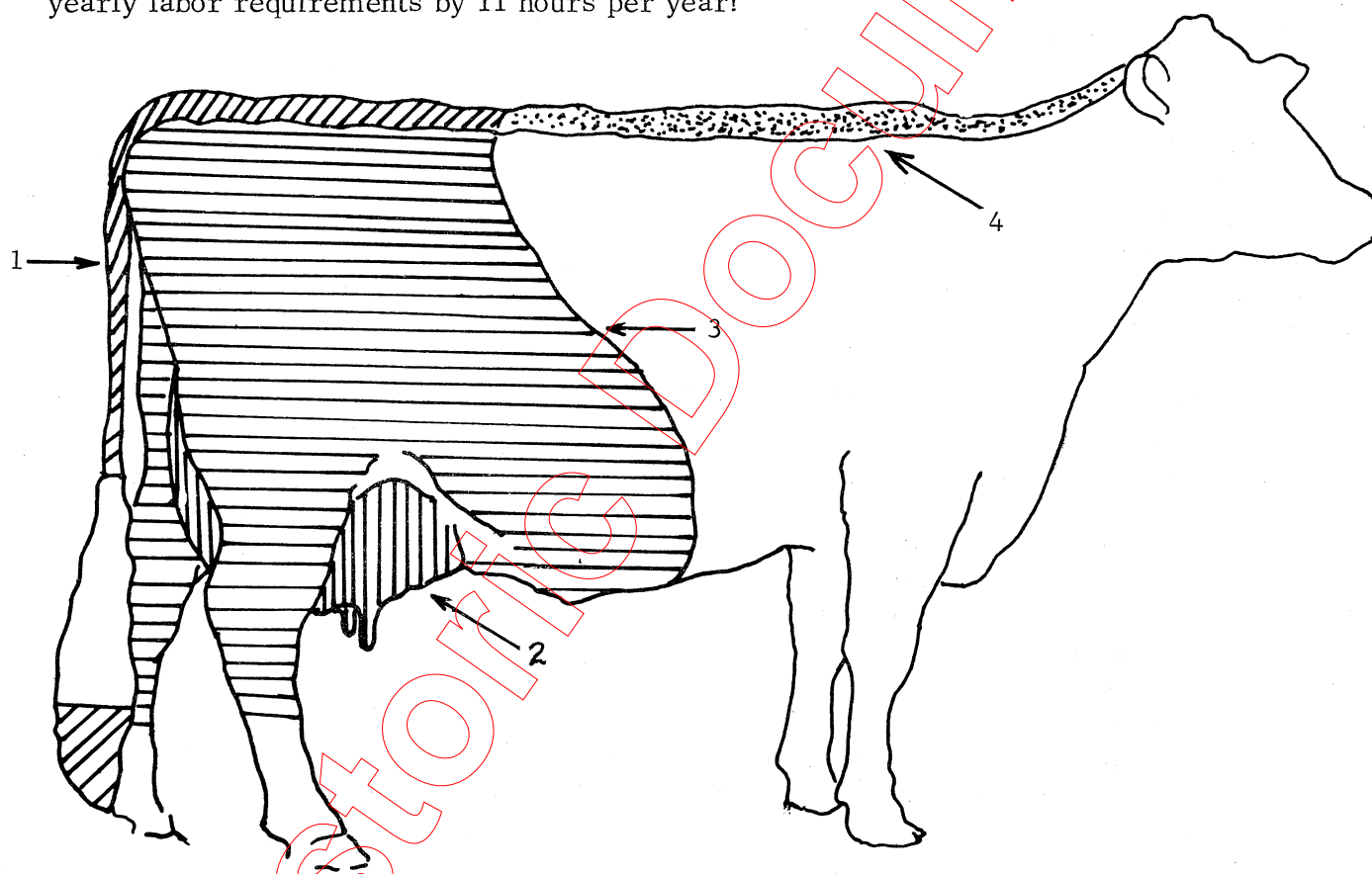
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## Clipping Milk Cows

S. M. Gregory  
Extension Dairyman

Clipping cows will reduce time spent in preparing cows for milking, make it easier to keep cows clean, lower bacteria count, reduce sediment, help control lice, and enhance appearance of the animal. A minute saved with each cow per milking period will reduce her yearly labor requirements by 11 hours per year!



To do a good job of clipping, follow these steps:

1. Clip off the tip of switch about 1 ft. from the ground.  
Clip the tail, tailhead, and backbone up to the hook bones.
2. Clip the udder.
3. Clip the legs, underline, flanks, and thighs.
4. Clip a clipper-width on each side of the backbone.

### Clipping tips

Blend clipped and unclipped areas by clipping with the lay of the hair. Clip against the lay of the hair for a short clip.

Sound dairy management for sanitation reasons in milk production would require that the hind legs, flanks, and udders of cows shall be clipped often enough for the hair to be kept short on these parts at all times. The flanks, bellies, and tails of all milking cows should be free from visible dirt at time of milking.

Usually a clipping in the fall and another during late winter is sufficient.

### Clipper care

Proper use, care, and preventive maintenance of clippers will pay dividends by preventing malfunctions and expensive repairs. Proper care includes:

1. Oil through the holes in the top of the clipping head.
2. Remove blades occasionally and clean dirt and hair out of head.
3. Always use sharp blades as dull blades do not do a satisfactory job and may overload the motor and cause damage.
4. Adjust tension to the minimum at which clippers will cut. Excessive tension will wear and dull blades, overload the motor and make it over-heat.
5. Occasionally dip clipper head, while running, in a container of fuel oil or similar light lubricant to flush out dirt and hair and to lubricate the blades. Let excess drip off before

using. The bottom half of a gallon plastic jug is ideal for this purpose.

6. Be careful with clipper blades--they are hard and brittle. Dropping or striking them against metal or concrete can break teeth and destroy the blades.
7. Keep at least two sharp sets of blades on hand. They can be resharpened several times by manufacturer or local service shop.

### Routine maintenance

Depending on frequency of use, the clippers should be taken apart occasionally and the following maintenance routine performed:

1. Clean and replace grease in clipper head.
2. Remove screens at each end and blow out accumulated dirt and hair.
3. Oil motor armature shaft through holes in case. These may be wicked, so do not remove the wick from the holes.
4. If serious trouble develops with your clipper, return it to the manufacturer or a repair service center for reconditioning.

### Storage of clippers

Always store clippers in a safe, dry place. Use a covered container to prevent dust from settling on heads. Oil blades before storing to prevent rust. Store with the head lower than the motor to keep oil from running into the motor and causing damage.

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